



Catastrophic Response

Coordination | Communication | Unity of Effort

Working together makes us stronger

www.regionalcatplanning.org

EXEC'S PODIUM

REGIONALITY

JOSEPH F. BRUNO – NYC OEM Commissioner



I consider my role as an Executive Sponsor of the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCGP) to be one of the most significant responsibilities of my tenure as NYC OEM Commissioner.

The regional and national partnerships we have established and the plans, tools, and systems we have built over the past seven years are accomplishments that we all should be very proud to consider as a lasting legacy to our region and residents.

As we reach the sunset of the RCPGP grant program in early 2015, I call upon all of the leaders of this program from each of the jurisdictions and the four states involved to continue the NY/NJ/CT/PA region's important work and to find the means to ensure its survival.

I can assure you that as the RCPT moves toward conclusion of its work, it will make access to this work seamless to our jurisdictions through tablets, an app, and a perhaps a dedicated website. Further, the training and exercises that will be completed in this phase of the RCPGP will position all of us well so we can carry on into the future.

In 2011, I first used the term 'Regionality' to describe our work under the RCPGP grant program.

As I prepare to change my role in the service of this great City to which I have dedicated over 40 years of my life, I ask you to make "Regionality" more than just about the personalities that have led the regional charge. I ask you to make it about the endurance, utility, and ease of use of the systems and programs we have developed that make us stronger as a region and a nation.

Our region is like no other in the country. At the center of our region sits New York City, perhaps the most resilient and complex city in the world. A city where emergencies can turn into disasters, sometimes big disasters, very fast, and where they can happen at a relentless pace.

As a region we span 30 counties: New York City with all of the dangers that reside therein, northern New Jersey, Long Island, several additional New York counties, and portions of Connecticut and Pennsylvania. It is a region of 22 million people, and 1 out of every 14 Americans resides in this region.

The planning that is sufficient for commonly experienced disasters is not expansible for major regional catastrophes, particularly if those basic plans are not tested under conditions that represent the demands of catastrophes.

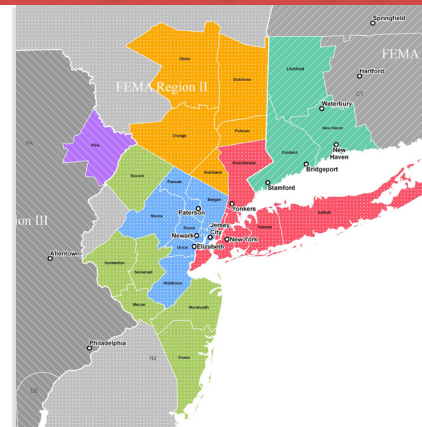
The RCPGP is a terrific program that FEMA got right; it has focused on regional planning and put significant federal grant support behind the effort. And equally as important is that this unique planning and preparedness program focused on the issue of catastrophes—which by their nature are regional!! And for the last phase of RCPGP, training and exercises are its focus.

So, my congratulations go to the Regional Catastrophic Planners and the Regional Planning Teams for all of their great work. Congratulations for building the plans, for building the capability to execute the plans; for fostering relationships across agencies and jurisdictions and for creating true interoperability between NYC and surrounding states, including NJ, CT, and PA; and most of all thank you for allowing us to understand and act on this profound responsibility that we have to support the people who are affected by disasters.

Overall, the Hurricane Pilot was considered by both the exercise planning team and the exercise players to be a success. The exercise validated the capability of the Morris County EOC in managing a significant disaster event and assessed the established core capabilities. In addition, the pilot assessed the effectiveness of the planning process and the exercise in promoting play that would allow a jurisdiction to self-evaluate its emergency response plans and functions.

The pilot was designed to assess the effectiveness of the EMCEP toolkit in planning and facilitating the exercise and compiling an After Action Report (AAR). The next step is to take the recommendations from the pilot evaluation to make improvements to the EMCEP toolkit.

If you would like more information on the EMCEP project, please contact [Jim Penta](mailto:jpenta@regionalcatplanning.org) at jpenta@regionalcatplanning.org.



RCPT OUTREACH

June:

June 30 – C-POD Field Training, Southbury (CT)

July:

July TBD – EMCEP Cyber/UACG Pilot – Virtual/Conference Call

July 9 – Rockland County (NY) Lightning Bolt

July 17 – RDC Field Training, Mercer County, NJ

July 22 – EOC Leadership Development Lab, NYC OEM

September:

September 23 – Hunterdon County (NJ) Lightning Bolt

October:

October 22 – Regional Full-Scale IND Exercise

October 30 – Warren County (NJ) Lightning Bolt

EMCEP Pilot

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Pilot

On Wednesday, April 30th, the first of three pilot exercises in support of the RCPT's Emergency Management Catastrophic Exercise Program (EMCEP) was held at the Morris County (NJ) Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The Morris County OEM conducted the exercise in their new EOC facility to test interagency communication and coordination. The scenario that was used to drive the exercise was a major hurricane making landfall in New Jersey.

Emergency Management Colloquium: Building the Emergency Management Capability

Catastrophes are different from routine emergencies. They bring information burdens, tremendous increases in resource needs, and cascading impacts and problems with no easy solutions or pre-identified courses of action. Over the last four years, the RCPT has developed a series of plans and tools to provide a framework for emergency managers to coordinate the response to catastrophic emergencies. With the completion of these plans the RCPT has now shifted its focus and developed the Emergency Management Colloquium (EMC), a series of three online courses and one classroom course that prepares emergency managers and agency representatives with strategies and tools to execute the three missions of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC): information management, resource management, and consequence management. These essential missions do not change, regardless of the size and complexity of the disaster—they only become more complex. See the side box for more information on the four courses.

The EMC courses are being developed collaboratively with stakeholders from across the region to ensure that course content is applicable to EOCs of all shapes and sizes. Through initial design concepts, storyboarding, alpha and beta testing, and pilot delivery, the material has been reviewed and analyzed to ensure that it meets its intended goal of building the emergency management capability across the region. The project is slated for completion by the end of the August.

The online courses will be available through the Learning Management Systems of some of the RCPT partners. The classroom course, including Facilitator and Participant Guide, handouts, and other information, will be available on CD for any jurisdiction interested in implementing it. For more information and access to these training courses, please contact **Orly Amir** at oamir@regionalcatplanning.org.

COURSE OVERVIEW

EOC and Catastrophic Emergencies Online: a 50-minute course that describes how the EOC performs its coordination functions during catastrophic emergencies. The course is divided into six modules that explain why catastrophes are different, how the EOC serves as the cornerstone for coordination, how EOCs are organized and what roles are needed, the three missions of the EOC, strategies for achieving these missions, and information flow between EOCs.

EOC and Catastrophic Emergencies Classroom Course: a full-day classroom course that aims to improve the response capabilities of emergency managers and agency representatives who will serve in leadership and management roles in the EOC and other supporting operations during a catastrophic emergency.

Just-in-Time EOC Course: a 20-minute course that provides agency and organization representatives unfamiliar with emergency response with an introduction to the EOC and its missions, their role in the EOC's operation, and how they can support the response and recovery efforts.

RCPT Primer: a 60-minute course that catalogs the RCPT products and tools that can be used by emergency managers to prepare, respond to, and recover from a catastrophic emergency.

RCPT Video Series

What does an emergency manager do? How do they build teams to identify solutions to problems caused by catastrophes? How do local community groups integrate into the disaster response? How can the private sector be prepared for disasters? These questions and more are addressed in a series of training videos developed by the RCPT. These videos help to answer hard-to-explain questions and processes that help the whole community be ready to respond to disasters together. The first video, *The Essential Emergency Manager: What They Do and How They Do It*, is the starting point to the series. This video explains why we need emergency managers and how they enable effective action by others. After watching this video, audiences can view additional clips that dive into specific concepts:

- *Managing Consequences During Disasters: Solving Problems Together* is geared toward agency and organization representatives and emergency managers who will work together in an EOC to identify and solve problems as a team.
- *Stronger Community, Better Response: Connecting Community Organizations During a Disaster* is geared toward non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations that will take an active role in response and recovery in their communities.
- *Business Continuity for Community Resiliency* is geared toward the businesses, large and small, that operate and serve communities and are integral in the recovery process.



Scene from "Managing Consequences"

Three of these videos are accessible on www.regionalcatplanning.org. The remaining video will be completed later this summer. If you would like more information on these videos, please contact **Orly Amir** at oamir@regionalcatplanning.org.